

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 13 Have been canceled and new Claims 21, 22 23 and 24 entered in the above amendment. Other claims have been amended to more clearly define and distinguish the invention of the present application from those of the references cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1, contending “the limitations of ‘a first angular relation’ and ‘a second angular relation’ is [sic] vague and indefinite”. Claim 1 has been canceled in the present amendment.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 7, 10, 13,17 and 18, contending “the limitations of ‘first acute angle’ and ‘second acute angle’ are vague. One could interpret that the angles... to be... anywhere from 0 to 90 degrees”. The Examiner pointed out that “an exactly 90 degree angle is a right angle”. Applicant respectfully points out that the limitation to an acute angle means the angles must lie between 0 and 90 degrees, which excludes linear (0 degree) and right angle (90 degree) relations. Applicant has found the specific angles of 10 and 20 degrees to be preferred for certain applications. Applicant believes that those familiar with the art who read the specification and become acquainted with the invention will understand to adapt the angles, within the acute range, to other applications as appropriate. Applicant respectfully submits that the adjective acute is sufficiently specific to define a useful range for the invention as that between 0 and 90 degrees. Applicant respectfully requests the new and amended claims defining the range of angles as acute be allowed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nudelman et al. The Examiner contends that “illumination light conducting fibers... ..(74, 76)...”

in figure 5 of the Nudelman reference are “in an angular relation to the image forming end axis”. The Examiner also contends the Nudelman figure includes “a fiber optic image bundle... (72; fig. 5).” Applicant notes that figure 5 of Nudelman does not include elements numbered 74, 76 or 72, and believes elements 98 of that figure to be electrical wires relating to photodetectors 94 and 96 of that figure. (See column 11, beginning at line 5) Applicant suggests the Examiner was referring to figure 4 of the Nudelman reference. If this suggestion is correct, Applicant submits that the apparent angular relation between the elements cited by the Examiner is the result of the perspective given to the drawing by the draftsman. At column 10 of that reference, beginning at line 28, it is stated that those elements (72, 74 and 76) of figure 4 “extend longitudinally parallel”. Further, it is explained that “optic bundle 72” is for raster illumination and “light channels 74 and 76 transmit reflected radiation from the object... to the proximal end 80 of the endoscope”. Allowance of claim 3 and all other claims is respectfully requested.

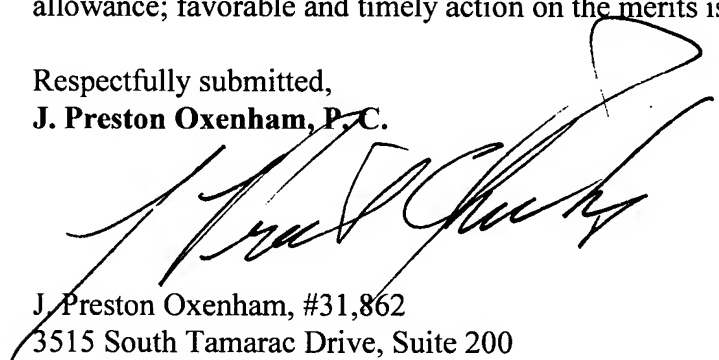
The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Needelman and Wach et al. The Examiner appears to cite the Wach et al reference for disclosure of angling a planar end face of an illumination light conducting optical fiber relative to the illumination end axis of the fiber. Applicant does not believe the claims of the present application call for a particular angular relation between the plane of the illumination light emitting end face of the illumination light conducting optical fibers and the illumination light conducting optical fiber illumination end portion axis except in those claims which provide that the end face be planar and normal to such axis. Applicant believes that, though Needelman appears to suggest some possible angular relations an illuminating light conducting optical fiber may have to an endoscope cable axis, he in no way suggests any geometry such as those defined in the claims of the present

application.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither the Nudelman nor the Wach et al references, considered individually or in combination, teach or suggest the acute angular relation between the illumination light conducting optical fiber illumination end portion axes and the illumination end portion axis of an endoscope cable, or a light conducting fiber bundle within an endoscope cable, which are the teaching of the present application and claimed as elements of the invention in the current claims as amended.

Applicant believes all claims of the present application, as amended, to be in condition for allowance; favorable and timely action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
**J. Preston Oxenham, P.C.**



J. Preston Oxenham, #31,862  
3515 South Tamarac Drive, Suite 200  
Denver, Colorado 80237  
Tel: 303.757.5000  
Fax: 303.689.9627